

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 COTONO 01270 040751Z

15

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 IO-13 /080 W

----- 127628

R 040720Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8747

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 1270

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DM, RO, KN, CH

SUBJ: VIEWS ON BENIN-NORTH KOREAN COMMUNIQUE

REF: A. STATE 190390 B. COTONOU 1218

1. THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE (REF A) HAS NEVER BEEN MENTIONED IN LOCAL PRESS. DURING PREVIOUS VISITS OF PRESIDENT KEREKOU TO HIS AFRICAN NEIGHBORS (WHICH WERE HIS ONLY PREVIOUS EXCURSIONS OUT OF BENIN), ROUTING PRACTICE WAS TO PUBLISH FULL TEXTS OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE. WE INTERPRET THIS CHANGE AS BASIC DISINTEREST ON THE PART OF THE GPRB IN THE CONTENTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE, IF NOT DISSATISFACTION WITH THE RESULTS OF THE TRIP.

2. THERE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE "TOURISTIC" ASPECT OF THE PRESIDENT'S JOURNEY BUT NO MENTION OF SUBSTANCE OF HIS MEETING. THOSE WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN INSTRUCTED TO KEEP SILENT. NONE OF OUR DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE (INCLUDING TWO AFRICAN CHIEFS OF MISSION) HAS BEEN ABLE TO DRAW OUT ANY BENINESE ON THE RESULTS OF THE TRIP.

3. KEREKOU HAS NOT RESUMED THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT SINCE HE RETURNED ON JULY 25. HE IS REPORTEDLY ON VACATION,  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 COTONO 01270 040751Z

PROBABLY AT HIS HOME IN NATITINGOU IN THE NORTH OF THE

COUNTRY. LT. COLONEL BARTHELEMY OHOUENS IS ACTING CHIEF  
OF STATE.  
CHESHES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, INFORMATION MEDIA, COMMUNIQUE, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976COTONO01270  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760299-1349  
**From:** COTONOU  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760889/aaaaczww.tel  
**Line Count:** 64  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 190390  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VIEWS ON BENIN-NORTH KOREAN COMMUNIQUE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, DM, RO, KN, CH, (KEREKOU, MATHIEU)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006